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THE FARMERS' UNION.

Marvelous Growth of the Organization in South Carolina--The Coming State Convention.

Columbia special in the News and Courier: The State Farmers' Union Convention, to be held here on July 22, is expected to bring to Columbia the largest gathering of farmers the city has seen in many years. Some counties in the State have not yet been organized, but there are now over 400 local unions scattered over the State, and others are being organized at the rate of about ten a week. Over 200 delegates are expected to attend the State Convention. The executive positions of the State organization are in good hands and harmony characterizes the union generally over the State.

Of course, no newspaper men will be admitted to the Convention, which will be held in the hall of the House of Representatives, but it is expected that something of interest to the people of the State generally will be given out for publication by the press committee.

There has been a wonderful awakening among the farmers of this State to the importance of getting together and sticking to the necessity for better methods on the farm and to the advantages to be gained by frequent meetings in local unions for exchange of experience and swapping ideas.

And the rapid growth of the rural high school system shows that the farmers generally are taking more practical interest in education generally. The demonstration work of the Federal department of agriculture has accomplished great results in waking up the farmers, by pursuing systematic, practical work on the farms through district, county and township representatives. The yearly crop of agricultural graduates from Clemson has also played an important part in arousing general interest in farming, as have the frequent county meetings of farmers over the State.

The State Union now has its official weekly paper, a four-column, sixteen-page general agricultural publication, attractively edited and beautifully printed, and published at Columbia. This goes to about 4,000 farm families over the State, and it is attracting much favorable comment. Its editor is Mr. S. Frank Parrott, a clever young newspaper man of Gaffney, who has been conducting the Cherokee News for the past several years.

The Farmers' Union began to be organized in this State in 1904, the president, Mr. B. Harris, of Pendleton, being the first president. The organization has grown most rapidly in the upper tier of counties, where there are a larger number of white farmers, but it is being rapidly pushed into the counties east and south of the Capital, Orangeburg, Calhoun, Marion, Marlboro, Clarendon, Bamberg, Barnwell Aiken, Hampton counties being now in course of organization. The counties already organized are: Anderson, Oconee, Pickens, Greenville, Laurens, Abbeville, Newberry, Spartanburg, Cherokee, York, Lancaster, Kershaw, Fairfield, Richland, Lee, Sumter, Darlington, Florence, Williamsburg, Lexington, Saluda, Edgefield and Chester, and Union is to be

organized within the next few weeks.

The organization has a form of ritual and some secret work, which appeals to the imagination and tends to keep up interest, but the primary object, the practical result being striven for first and foremost, is to spread the gospel of diversification, the raising of home supplies and the treatment of cotton as a surplus crop.

However, the Union is building cotton ware houses over the State the work of constructing these ware houses is going on now in half a dozen counties, where the Union does not own such building, in keeping with the general scheme to finally get the major portion of the cotton in such ware houses for the purpose of financing the crop and releasing it only at a stated price.

Some of the county and township local unions are beginning to buy their supplies in bulk, others are buying through central agencies, but the plan that seems to be most popular is to have the local merchants do the buying, the farmers buying in advance for cash. It is said that in one county last year, where the Union is particularly strong the fertilizer trust was made to sell fertilizers at from \$2 to \$2.50 a ton less than it was selling the same brands in neighboring counties. The Union members refused to buy until the price was reached. J. A. H.

Anderson Young Lady Bitten by Mad Dog.

Anderson special in the News and Courier: Miss Carrie Anderson was taken to Atlanta this morning for Pasteur treatment. A shepherd dog belonging to her sister, Mrs. Prue Skelton, became mad and attempted to bite Mrs. Skelton's children. Miss Anderson interfered, and the dog attacked her. The head of the dog was sent to Atlanta for examination. Believing that the dog was mad Miss Anderson and several members of her family have gone to Atlanta where Miss Anderson will be treated.

Several mad dogs have been killed here during the past few days, and Mayor McCully today issued a proclamation ordering all dogs muzzled. This order is effective tomorrow, and all dogs found on the streets unmuzzled will be killed.

Tillman's Name May be Presented for Vice Presidency.

Columbia special in the News and Courier: Gen. Willie Jones, chairman of the State Democratic committee, stated today that he had considered that the South Carolina delegation should present the name of Senator Tillman to the Convention for Vice President, and he thinks it is probable that this will be done. The nomination would be purely complimentary, of course, as Senator Tillman has gone to Europe to rest until after the close of the campaign and would not, if nominated, be able to participate in the campaign at all on account of the serious condition of his health. However, his name may be presented.

Boy's Tragic Death--Lost His Life Trying to Swing On a Train.

Columbia special in Thursday's Charlotte Observer:

In attempting to swing onto an outgoing Southern passenger train just pulling out of the union station for Marion, N. C., Boyd Stroud, the 15-year-old son of Arch Stroud, of the Richland Mill village, fell under the wheels and was instantly killed this morning as the train was passing Sumter and Indigo streets, a block from the union station. The little fellow's body was horribly mangled, the head being the only portion not cut up.

This dangerous practice of swinging onto outgoing passenger trains for free rides is a favorite pastime among young boys of his age in that section of the city, and at the time of the accident Boyd was accompanied by a number of his companions who were more fortunate in getting safely on the train.

The Stroud family came here from McColl, S. C., where they have a number of relatives. They also have relatives at Dillon, S. C.

Northern Woman Comes South in a Box.

Salisbury, N. C., special in the Charlotte Observer: The people of Salisbury were treated to a very unusual sight at the depot yesterday and the fresh and enthusiasts especially were given something to think about. Mrs. William Tyson, a middle aged wealthy woman of Fitchburg, Mass., arrived here comfortably tucked away in a large box with glass front, having made the trip in the baggage car. Mrs. Tyson has been a sufferer of bronchitis and nervous troubles and for the past year has lived in a very close room, imagining the slightest draught might aggravate her condition. To avoid the cold, damp climate of the North she decided to come to North Carolina in the hope that the climate might relieve her. The box in which she decided to make the trip on the train is a large, long affair with glass front and having windows which may be opened and shut at will. She was wrapped in heavy blankets and it is needless to say that with the thermometer outside at 90, perspiration bathed her face and she looked pale, thin and worn. The interior of the box, according to her idea, was comfortably arranged with books, thermometer, papers, clock, etc.

Lancaster's Growing All Right.

Kershaw Era: While deploring the fact of Lancaster's having no street sprinkler, Editor Connor of the Lancaster News duly appreciates his faithful friend and ally, the rain, which will come along occasionally and give his community a brief immunity from the dust. He is also rejoicing over the bright prospects for an early realization of his long deferred hope for a much needed water-works and electric light systems for his town.

Marriage of Interest to Lancastrians.

Mrs. Rose Moore, widow of the late James Moore, of this county, and sister of Mrs. R. L. Hicklin, of Richburg, was married a few days ago in Georgia, where she has resided for several years, as will be seen from the following clipping from a Georgia paper just received here:

Quite a pretty, though quiet wedding was solemnized last evening at the home of Mrs. D. V. Vaker on East Adair street, the contracting parties being Mrs. Rose M. Moore and Mr. D. S. Turner.

The home was prettily decorated with palms and ferns, interspersed with roses and cut flowers. Rev. M. A. Morgan officiated and Miss Eugenia Harris rendered the wedding march.

After the ceremony refreshments were served and the happy couple left for their little suburban home amidst the jollity of a shower of rice and old shoes.

Mrs. Moore is a sister of Mrs. D. V. Baker and also of Mrs. J. W. Twitty. She is well known in Valdosta where she has lived with Mrs. Baker for several years. Every one in Valdosta knows Mr. Turner, who is a successful truck farmer and lives just on the edge of town, on the Ashley street road. They have many friends in the city who wish them happiness and success, and that time may deal gently with them, touching the effulgent sunset of their lives with soft and mellow tints as the deeper shades of twilight gather gently over them.

Mr. and Mrs. Turner were the recipients of many handsome and useful presents, including furniture, china, silver and cut glass.

Mysterious Killing in Raleigh.

Raleigh, N. C., July 1.—Bleeding to death from a mysterious bullet wound in his left leg, B. M. Stultz, an engineer on the Seaboard Air Line, staggered into the train order room of the road here last night and died without telling how or by whom he had been shot.

Turner Smith, a 19-year-old boy, is under arrest for the killing. The testimony before the coroner's jury was that some man had, about 11 o'clock last night, peeped through the blinds at Smith's 17-year-old sister. The girl awoke her brother, and about 1 o'clock the man came again to the window and young Smith shot three times through the grass. The man fled but returned an hour later and Smith shot again at him. A few moments afterward Stultz staggered into the train room and died.

Engineers to Spend Today at Great Falls.

Charlotte Observer: The Charlotte branch of the Engineering Society of the South will spend Saturday at Great Falls, S. C., inspecting the two mammoth developments there of the Southern Power Company. The members to the number of about 40 and the invited guests will leave on the morning train for Rock Hill, and if nothing happens to the contrary will reach the falls about 9 o'clock.

Spartanburg Mills Shut Down for 13 Days.

Spartanburg special in the Columbia State: Following the suggestion of the South Carolina Cotton Manufacturers' association at its annual meeting held at Glenn Springs recently, it is announced today that four of the largest mills in Spartanburg county, Whitney, Spartan, Pa. Colet and Arkwright, will close down tomorrow for 13 days. This gives about 3,000 operatives a holiday of two weeks and stops for that length of time about 200,000 spindles. So far as can be learned these are the only mills to be closed down at this time, though it is understood others will give their employees a vacation of two weeks later in the summer.

How to Catch Musk-Rats.

Mr. E. Mullis, of New Salem township, has discovered a new and effective method of catching musk-rats. His method is as follows:

Make an ordinary plank box three or four feet long, nail a head over one end like a bee-gum and bury the box in the ground with head end down on the bank of stream, letting the head end of box go deep enough into the ground to be a little below the water in the stream, the top end being level with the ground, then cut a little trench from stream to box in order that the water may cover the bottom of box. By doing this the rats think, bottom of box being covered with water, that they can dive and go on into the stream and will therefore jump into the box. Mr. Mullis says he has known as many as 6 to be caught in one night with one box.

Died at Church.

Atlanta Journal: As the congregation sang "Rock of Ages," James F. Levar, age 17 years, of 436 Windsor street, was stricken with heart failure Monday night at a tent, corner Windsor and Love streets, where religious services were being held, and died in his mother's arms. Not half an hour before he had confessed to her his determination to make his life better, and it was his intention to be baptized at the close of the tent services.

Greenwood Man Suicides.

Greenwood special in Thursday's State: Greenwood was shocked this morning when the sad news was made known that Mr. B. F. May, one of the most highly respected citizens, had committed suicide by sending a bullet through his brain. While Mr. May had been a resident of Greenwood only two years, he having moved here from Saluda, he had many friends here, who were deeply pained to hear of the awful tragedy. No possible reason can be given for the deed other than the fact that Mr. May has been in very bad health for some time.